Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 100825 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 699

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E. O. 11652: VDS

TAGS: FAID MASS SO UR SUBJ: SOVIET TECHNICIANS

REF: STATE 062952

- 1. EMBASSY ESTIMATES PRESENT NUMBER OF SOVIET ECONOMIC/MILITARY TECHNICIANS IN SOMALIA AT ABOUT 1,200, OF WHOM APPROXIMATELY 845 ARE WORKING IN MILITARY- RELATED ACTIVITIES. WHILE WE CANNOT GIVE DETAILED DESCRIPTION THEIR DUTIES, FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR FUNCTIONS WHICH THEY BELIEVED TO BE PERFORMING. ALL FIGURES ARE APPROXIMATE.
- $2. \ \ THOSE\ WORKING\ IN\ PREDOMINANTLY\ MILITARY\ FIELDS\ INCLUDE:$
- (A) MILITARY ATTACHED TO SOMALI MILITARY COMMANDS IN ADVISORY AND TRAINING CAPACITY 425, (OF WHOM 300 AT MOGADISCIO, 25 AT UANLE UEN, 80 AT HARGEISA, AND 20 AT CHISIMAIO);
- (B) CIVILIANS WGKING ON CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY AIRFIELDS AT UANLE UEN AND BERBERA 400;
- (C) MILITARY AND CIVILIANS WORKING AT SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IN BERBERA $20.\,$
- 3. THOSE WORKING IN PREDOMINANTLY CIVILIAN FIELDS INCLUDE:
- (A) CIVILIANS WORKING AT BERBERA AND OTHER PORTS 60;
- (B) CIVILIANS WORKING AT SOVIET- FINANCED FACTORIES AT LAS KOREH, CHISIMAIO, AND MOGADISCIO 20;
- (C) TEACHERS, DOCTORS, OTHER MISCELLANEOUS AID PERSONNAL 135;
- (D) ENGINEERS WORKING AT FANOLE DAM SITE 40;
- (E) CIVILIANS WORKING WITH SOVIET- SOMALI FISHING FLEET 100. CONFIDENTIAL

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RM NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE LISTING ARE APPROXIMATELY 200 SOVIET CIPZNS ATTACHED TO SOVIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN MOGADISCIO, AND THIRTY- FIVE ATTACHED TO UNDP. LAST OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED FIGURE FOR SOVIET NATIONALS IN SOMALIA (IN 1971 STATISTICAL ABSTRACT) IS 778, A FIGURE WHICH INCLUDES DEPENDENTS).

5. EMBASSY LACKS INFORMATION TO PREDICT FUTURE TRENDSIN NUMBER OF SOVIET TEVNICIANS. FOLLOWING EXPLUSION FROM EGYPT, NUMBER OF TECHNICIANS HERE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED NEW ARRIVALS IN LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1972. WE DO ANTICIPATE SOME CHANGE AND NET INCREASE IN TECHNICIANS AS FANOLE PROJECT PROGRESSES. ANY SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SUCH PERSONNEL WOULD RAISE VARIZY OF PROBLEMS FOR SOVIETS AND SOMALIS, INCLUDING ADVERSE POPULAR REACTION, OPPOSITION FROM ARAB STATES, AND INCONSISTENCY WITH REGIME'S EMPHASIS ON "SELF-HELP." WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT ANY NEW INFORMATION ON ARRIVALS OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS.

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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